

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of October 31, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. This response is being filed concurrent with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 67 and 82 have been amended to place the claims in a more preferred form. Claims 68-69, 72-73, 76, 78, and 88 have been withdrawn. Claim 81 has been canceled. Thus, claims 67, 70, 74-75, 77, 79-80, 82-83, 85-87, and 89-90 remain pending.

Applicants have withdrawn claims 78 and 88. However, upon allowance of independent claims 67 and 82, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to rejoin one or more of claims 78 and 88 into the present matter. Applicants have amended the title to a more preferred form.

Claims 67, 70, 74-75, 77, 79-80, 82-83, 85-87, and 89-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Muldoon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,233,992, hereinafter referred to as *Muldoon*). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants' amended claims 67 and 82 each recites, among other features,

wherein the request to log into the private network exchange is received from a first company through a first service provider of the multiple server providers,

wherein the data representing the authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications is sent to the selected application through a second service provider of the multiple service providers, the first service provider being different from the second service provider.

Although these claim features are not addressed in the present Action with respect to Applicants' claims 67 and 82, Applicants provide the following response to describe the failure of *Muldoon* to teach or suggest such features.

Specifically, *Muldoon* describes a "method and system for sending, receiving and managing the exchange of messages between an intranet and multiple external users using a secure server as an intermediary interface for Internet communications." (Abstract). *Muldoon* fails to describe multiple service providers and access within a private network by companies connected through different service providers. As such, *Muldoon* fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' claims 67 and 82. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 70, 74-75, 77, and 79-80, and 83, 85-87, and 89-90, which depend from claims 67 and 82, respectively, are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as their ultimate base claim.

All matters having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2008

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